

Testimony
Senate Bill 2094 – Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Lee, Chairman
January 12, 2009

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Alex C. Schweitzer, Superintendent of the North Dakota State Hospital and North Dakota Developmental Center of the Department of Human Services. I am here today to provide you testimony in support of Senate Bill 2094.

This bill would exempt direct training technicians or vocational training technicians at the North Dakota Developmental Center who provide medications to individuals from the requirements of the Nurse Practices Act. Currently, the statute exempts direct care staff in correctional facilities, psychiatric residential treatment facilities for children, group homes for the developmentally disabled, residential child care facilities and adult foster care homes who provide medications to individuals from the requirements of the Nurse Practices Act.

This change in the statute would put the staff at the North Dakota Developmental Center on equal footing with staff in other care facilities who provide the same type of service. Direct Training Technicians and Vocational Training Technicians at the Developmental Center are trained for the provision of medications through a comprehensive training program taught by a registered nurse and approved by the Department of Human Services.

The Department of Human Services is also offering an amendment to Senate Bill 2094 after consultation with the Board of Nursing. This amendment clearly defines that the medication program must be approved by the Department of Human Services.

I would appreciate your support of Senate Bill 2094 and the amendment as presented.

I would be happy to answer any questions.